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For Immediate Release

September 8, 2005

Contact: Jamie Callahan

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*** MACKINAC BRIDGE TAKEOVER UPDATE ***

Letter sent to governor asking for clarification on Mackinac Bridge takeover

Who: State Sen. Jason Allen, R- Traverse City.

What: Allen has sent a letter to the governor seeking clarification of the administration's position regarding the takeover of the Mackinac Bridge.

Please see attached.

Briefing: Allen held a town hall meeting in St. Ignace last week following Michigan Department of Transportation Director Gloria Jeff's announcement she is taking away the decades-long responsibilities of the Mackinac Bridge Authority based on her interpretation of attorney general opinions from the 1960s. Conflicting statements have been given by the administration and Jeff.

Allen is studying the attorney general opinions, and if necessary, will introduce legislation to restore the Mackinac Bridge Authority's ability to operate and manage the bridge.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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September 8, 2005

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm
State of Michigan
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Granholm:

I would like to convey my appreciation for the statement given on your behalf by Ms. Barbara Brown at the September 1, 2005 Town Hall meeting in St. Ignace regarding the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA). I appreciated learning that your administration does not wish assume the functions of the MBA.

Following Ms. Brown's statements, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Director, Ms. Gloria Jeff, further reiterated that MDOT was not interested in taking over the powers of the MBA. After her opening remarks, Director Jeff gave a presentation which outlined how and why MDOT has taken over all of the MBA's powers, with the exception of establishing tolls and managing special events.

In an effort to gain a greater understanding and clarity of your administration's position, I would appreciate knowing what specific actions you are taking to rectify the apparently conflicting statements between yourself, via Ms. Brown, and Director Jeff.

Thank you again for your continued attention to this matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Best wishes,

Jason Allen
State Senator
37th District

JA:jga